

Union Calendar No. 87

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1016

[Report No. 111–171]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Mr. FILNER (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. HARE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HODES, and Mr. SESTAK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JUNE 19, 2009

Additional sponsors: Mr. TEAGUE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. JONES, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BOREN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SPACE, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. NYE, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ROSS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. DON-

NELLY of Indiana, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LEE of New York, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. MASSA

JUNE 19, 2009

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 12, 2009]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care*
 5 *Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009”.*

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 *It is the sense of Congress that the provision of health*
 8 *care services to veterans could be more effectively and effi-*
 9 *ciently planned and managed if funding was provided for*

1 *the management and provision of such services in the form*
 2 *of advance appropriations.*

3 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTS' BUDGET SUBMISSIONS.**

4 *Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is*
 5 *amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

6 *“(36) information on estimates of appropriations*
 7 *for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which*
 8 *the budget is submitted for the following accounts of*
 9 *the Department of Veterans Affairs:*

10 *“(A) Medical Services.*

11 *“(B) Medical Support and Compliance.*

12 *“(C) Medical Facilities.*

13 *“(D) Information Technology Systems.*

14 *“(E) Medical and Prosthetic Research.”.*

15 **SEC. 4. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-**
 16 **COUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 17 **AFFAIRS.**

18 *(a) ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-*
 19 *COUNTS.—*

20 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United*
 21 *States Code, is amended by inserting after section 116*
 22 *the following new section:*

23 **“§ 117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts**

24 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, beginning*
 25 *with fiscal year 2011, discretionary new budget authority*

1 *provided in an appropriations Act for the appropriations*
 2 *accounts of the Department specified in subsection (c)*
 3 *shall—*

4 “(1) *be made available for that fiscal year; and*

5 “(2) *include, for each such appropriations ac-*
 6 *count, advance discretionary new budget authority*
 7 *that first becomes available for the first fiscal year*
 8 *after the budget year.*

9 “(b) *ESTIMATES REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall in-*
 10 *clude in documents submitted to Congress in support of the*
 11 *President’s budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of*
 12 *title 31, United States Code, detailed estimates of the funds*
 13 *necessary for the accounts of the Department specified in*
 14 *subsection (c) for the fiscal year following the fiscal year*
 15 *for which the budget is submitted.*

16 “(c) *ACCOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The accounts specified in*
 17 *this subsection are the following accounts of the Department*
 18 *of Veterans Affairs:*

19 “(1) *Medical Services.*

20 “(2) *Medical Support and Compliance.*

21 “(3) *Medical Facilities.*

22 “(4) *Information Technology Systems.*

23 “(5) *Medical and Prosthetic Research.*

24 “(d) *ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than July 31 of each*
 25 *year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual re-*

1 port on the sufficiency of the Department’s resources for the
 2 next fiscal year beginning after the date of the submittal
 3 of the report for the provision of medical care. Such report
 4 shall also include estimates of the workload and demand
 5 data for that fiscal year.”.

6 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sec-
 7 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by
 8 inserting after the item relating to section 116 the fol-
 9 lowing new item:

“117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts.”.

10 **SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON ADEQUACY**
 11 **AND ACCURACY OF BASELINE MODEL PRO-**
 12 **JECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 13 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR HEALTH CARE EXPENDI-**
 14 **TURES.**

15 (a) *STUDY OF ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF BASE*
 16 *LINE MODEL PROJECTIONS.*—The Comptroller General
 17 shall conduct a study of the adequacy and accuracy of the
 18 budget projections made by the Enrollee Health Care Pro-
 19 jection Model (in this section referred to as the “Model”),
 20 its equivalent, or other methodologies utilized for the pur-
 21 pose of estimating and projecting health care expenditures
 22 of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the
 23 fiscal year involved and the subsequent four fiscal years.

24 (b) *REPORTS.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than the date of
2 each year in 2011, 2012, and 2013, on which the
3 President submits the budget request for the next fis-
4 cal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States
5 Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to the ap-
6 propriate committees of Congress and to the Secretary
7 of Veterans Affairs a report.

8 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—Each report under this para-
9 graph shall include, for the fiscal year concerning the
10 year for which the budget is submitted, the following:

11 (A) *A statement whether the amount re-*
12 *quested in the budget of the President for expend-*
13 *itures of the Department for health care in such*
14 *fiscal year is consistent with anticipated expend-*
15 *itures of the Department for health care in such*
16 *fiscal year as determined utilizing the Model.*

17 (B) *The basis for such statement.*

18 (C) *Such additional information as the*
19 *Comptroller General determines appropriate.*

20 (3) *AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.*—Each report
21 submitted under this subsection shall be made avail-
22 able to the public by the Comptroller General.

23 (4) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS*
24 *DEFINED.*—In this subsection, the term “appropriate
25 committees of Congress” means—

1 (A) *the Committees on Veterans' Affairs,*
 2 *Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate;*
 3 *and*

4 (B) *the Committees on Veterans' Affairs,*
 5 *Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of*
 6 *Representatives.*

7 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

8 *Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment*
 9 *of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit*
 10 *to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Appropriations,*
 11 *and the Budget of the Senate and House of Representatives*
 12 *a report on the requirements of this Act and the amend-*
 13 *ments made by this Act. Such report shall include—*

14 (1) *the Secretary's plans for improving the capa-*
 15 *bility of the Department of Veterans Affairs to better*
 16 *and more accurately estimate future health care costs*
 17 *and demands; and*

18 (2) *a description of impediments, statutory or*
 19 *otherwise, to providing future year estimates and ad-*
 20 *vance appropriations for the Medical Services, Med-*
 21 *ical Support and Compliance, Medical Facilities, In-*
 22 *formation Technology Systems, and Medical and*
 23 *Prosthetic Research accounts of the Department.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title
 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropria-

tions authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

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